

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1-20 are currently being amended.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action, claims 4, 7, 14 and 20 were objected to because of informalities pointed out by the Examiner, and claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as being indefinite. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20 to correct the informalities pointed out by the Examiner to make the claims definite and in conformance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 of the present application are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ozeki (U.S. Patent Re. 34,835) in view of Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,281,893).

As clear from the amended claims 1, 8 and 15, the subject matter of the present invention resides in an image-forming device and method, which allows at least one of coloring and character-modifying the specific machine-control information under a specific condition to generate, as machine-control information held by the image forming apparatus, a control information list including a number-of-sheets-used-information on an image-recording medium, and printing out the control information list including the number-of-sheets-used-information on the image-recording medium.

For example, according to the present invention, if a plurality of divisions uses one digital color copying machine, when printing out control information, such as the number of copies or printed sheets in every division, the user can designate modification of, for example, a color, under specific conditions which the user designates for a specific item which the user

desires. As a result, the operability can be significantly improved in terms of extraction of control information.

In contrast, the subject matter of Ozeki is to provide a device for editing a document in colors (by, for example, a word processor), which can readily change the display color of a given part of a document displayed on a display screen, and to emphasize the given part by color display when the document is edited on the display screen (see column 1, lines 37-42). It is therefore clear that the subject matter of the present invention is fundamentally different from the subject matter of Ozeki. Moreover, Ozeki fails to disclose or suggest the features of the amended claims 1, 8 and 15.

The subject matter of Takahashi is to provide an image forming apparatus and a preview method capable of checking the image forming order in advance by displaying the images processed by the same image forming order on a display unit, in a specific mode of sequentially forming at least two images (see column 2, lines 24-29). Thus, the subject matter of the present invention is also fundamentally different from the subject matter of Takahashi. Moreover, like Ozeki, Takahashi does not disclose or suggest the features of the amended claims 1, 8 and 15.

Accordingly, even if combinable, claims 1, 8, and 15 are patentably distinguishable from the combination of Ozeki and Takahashi. Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18 and 19 are also patentably distinguishable from the combination of Ozeki and Takahashi by virtue of their dependence from claims 1, 8, and 15, as well as their additional recitations.

Claims 4, 7, 11, 14 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Ozeki and Takahashi and further in view of Inoue (JP09-305576).

The subject matter of Inoue is to provide a printing method for selectively printing additional print information including character string information indicating the urgency, importance, confidentiality, handling, etc., of the data to be printed as printed matter (see page 6/58, lines 2-6 and page 3/58, lines 8-18). Thus, the subject matter of the present invention is also fundamentally different from the subject matter of Inoue. Moreover, like

Ozeki and Takahashi, Inoue does not disclose or suggest the features of the amended claims 1, 8 and 15.

Accordingly, even if combinable, claims 4, 7, 11, 14, and 20 are patentably distinguishable from the combination of Ozeki, Takahashi, and Inoue by virtue of their dependence from claims 1, 8, and 15, as well as their additional recitations.

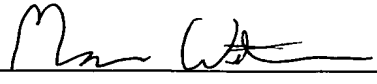
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 2/28/06

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